

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 6618

Nicole M. Stacy
February 20, 2023

Members of the Human Services Committee:

As a former Connecticut resident of close to a decade, I retain an interest in public affairs involving my former home. What follows is my testimony in **strong opposition to H.B. 6618, misleadingly titled “An Act Concerning Medical Assistance for Certain Persons Receiving Abortion Care and Related Services.”**

The reasons for my opposition are as follows:

1. Abortion is not “care” nor is it a “service.” Abortion centers in Connecticut have allegedly inflicted permanent injuries on women by their negligence.

Abortion is the direct and intentional destruction of the life of a prenatal human being. The insidious term “abortion care” used to describe this act does not belong in Connecticut law.

Moreover, lawsuits in which Planned Parenthood of Southern New England has been named in recent years raise allegations of appalling negligence:

- As a result of a Planned Parenthood nurse’s failure to properly diagnose gestational age/viability before prescribing the abortion drug regimen using Mifeprex and misoprostol, “...at approximately 3:00 AM, after experiencing severe cramping and discomfort, the plaintiff delivered a deceased but intact male fetus with a weight of 474.5 grams consistent with a 22 week gestation age into a toilet at her home.”¹
- A surgical abortion patient alleged that a Planned Parenthood doctor “failed to meet the prevailing standard of medical care, which constituted medical negligence...as a direct and proximate result...the plaintiff suffered the following serious and severe injuries: a. Perforated uterus; b. Perforated bowel; c. Need for emergency hysterectomy; d. Need for emergency bowel resection; and e. Need for emergency unilateral salpingo-oophorectomy...as a result of the aforementioned injuries, the plaintiff’s ability to become pregnant has been destroyed.”²

2. High levels of coercion – a recent peer-reviewed study in the journal Cureus³ found:

¹ <https://www.liveaction.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/lawsuit.pdf>

² <https://civillinquiry.jud.ct.gov/DocumentInquiry/DocumentInquiry.aspx?DocumentNo=20161941>

³ <https://www.cureus.com/articles/124269-effects-of-pressure-to-abort-on-womens-emotional-responses-and-mental-health#!/>

- Over 60 percent of women who had abortions report high levels of pressure to abort from one or more sources.
- Those same women report higher levels of subsequent mental health and quality of life issues.

3. Majorities of low-income and non-white Americans, as well as women, oppose using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions.

According to a January 2023 poll by Marist⁴:

- 61% of Americans with a household income less than \$50,000 are opposed.
- 54% of non-white Americans are opposed.
- 58% of women are opposed.

For at least part of the time I was a Hartford resident, the income level stipulated by this bill would have been applicable to me. As such, I feel to some extent personally targeted and attacked. This legislation does not represent my views either at that time or now.

4. It is widely acknowledged that funding abortion produces more abortion. Conversely, lives are saved by not funding abortion.

According to NPR: “From 1973, when abortion first became legal, until 1980, when the Hyde amendment first took effect, the joint federal-state Medicaid program was paying for roughly 300,000 abortions annually.”⁵

The most extensive attempt to quantify the life-saving impact of the Hyde Amendment found that, as of July 2020, an estimated **2.4 million Americans** were alive thanks to prohibitions on elective abortion funding in Medicaid.⁶ These lives saved disproportionately belong to historically disenfranchised minorities.⁷

Connecticut would be far better served to set aside funds to offer genuine help to residents in need, as other states have done, not to entice anyone – whether in or out of state – to take life. For all these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reject H.B. 6618.

Sincerely,

Nicole M. Stacy
Alexandria, VA

⁴ <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/polls/2023-kofc-marist-poll-cross-tabs.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.npr.org/2009/12/14/121402281/abortion-funding-ban-has-evolved-over-the-years>

⁶ <https://lozierinstitute.org/hyde-40-analyzing-the-impact-of-the-hyde-amendment-with-july-2020-addendum/>

⁷ <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/the-hyde-amendment-is-saving-mostly-nonwhite-lives>